

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (*Currently amended*) A catamenial tampon comprising:

a compressed absorbent member having an inner region and an exterior surface, said compressed absorbent member comprising an absorbent material;

said absorbent material having a first surface opposed to ~~the~~ a second surface and an insertion end opposed to a withdrawal end;

a fluid wicking overwrap substantially covering said first surface and said second surface of said absorbent material;

said fluid wicking overwrap extending beyond the withdrawal end of said absorbent material to form a skirt portion;

said fluid wicking overwrap substantially covering said exterior surface of the compressed absorbent member; and

a portion of said fluid wicking overwrap substantially permeating said inner region of said compressed absorbent member.

Claim 2. (*Currently Cancelled*)

Claim 3. (*Original*) A tampon according to Claim 1 wherein the fluid wicking overwrap comprises synthetic fibers and natural fibers.

Claim 4. (*Original*) A tampon according to Claim 3 wherein the ratio of the synthetic fibers to natural fibers is from about 90:10 to about 30:70.

Claim 5. (*Original*) A tampon according to Claim 1 wherein the fluid wicking overwrap has a horizontal gravimetric wicking capacity with a range of from about 2 to about 6 grams of fluid per gram of tampon at a 500 second interval.

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Claim 6. (*Original*) A tampon according to Claim 1 wherein said fluid wicking overwrap is hydroentangled and comprises about 50% rayon and about 50% polyester.

Claim 7. (*Original*) A tampon according to Claim 10 wherein said skirt portion extends from about 5 mm to about 30 mm from said withdrawal end of said absorbent material.

Claim 8. (*Currently Cancelled*)

Claim 9. (*Currently amended*) A catamenial tampon comprising:

a compressed absorbent member having an inner region and an exterior surface, said compressed absorbent member comprising an absorbent material;

said absorbent material having a first surface opposed to ~~the~~ a second surface and an insertion end opposed to a withdrawal end;

a fluid wicking overwrap substantially covering said first surface and said second surface of said absorbent material;

said fluid wicking overwrap extending beyond the withdrawal end of said absorbent material to form a skirt portion;

said fluid wicking overwrap substantially covering said exterior surface of the compressed absorbent member;

a portion of said fluid wicking overwrap substantially permeating said inner region of said compressed absorbent member; and

a withdrawal means for removal of said tampon attached to said compressed absorbent member and extending beyond at least said withdrawal end.

Claim 10. *(Currently Cancelled)*

Claim 11. *(Original)* A tampon according to Claim 9 wherein the fluid wicking overwrap is 100% rayon.


Claim 12. *(Original)* A tampon according to Claim 9 wherein the fluid wicking overwrap has a horizontal gravimetric wicking capacity with a range from about 2.5 to about 5 grams of fluid per gram of tampon at a 500 second interval.

Claim 13. *(Currently amended)* A tampon according to Claim 9 wherein said fluid wicking overwrap comprises a ~~thermally bonded~~ 50% rayon 50% polypropylene thermally bonded blend.

Claim 14. (*Original*) A tampon according to Claim 9 wherein said skirt portion extends from 2 mm to 20 mm from said withdrawal end of said absorbent material.

Claim 15. (*Original*) A tampon according to Claim 14 wherein the fluid wicking overwrap comprises synthetic fibers and natural fibers.

Claim 16. (*Original*) A process for making a tampon comprising:

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- (a) providing an absorbent material having a first surface opposed to a second surface and an insertion end opposed to a withdrawal end;
 - (b) providing a fluid wicking overwrap;
 - (c) creating a wrapped absorbent by substantially covering said first surface and second surface of said absorbent material with said fluid wicking overwrap; said fluid wicking overwrap extending beyond said withdrawal end of said absorbent material to form a skirt portion.
 - (d) compressing said wrapped absorbent to form a compressed absorbent member having a vaginally insertable shape, said compressed absorbent member having an inner region and an exterior surface;

wherein upon compression said fluid wicking overwrap substantially covers the exterior surface of the compressed absorbent member and substantially permeates the inner region of the compressed absorbent member.

Claim 17. (*Currently amended*) A process according to Claim 16 further comprising the step of providing a withdrawal means for removal of said tampon and attaching said withdrawal means to said wrapped absorbent prior to compression.

Claim 18. (*Currently amended*) A process according to Claim 16 further comprising the step of providing an insertion means for insertion of said tampon and positioning said compressed primary absorbent within said insertion means.

Claim 19. (*Original*) A process according to Claim 16 further comprising the step of rolling the wrapped absorbent before compression.

Claim 20. (*Original*) A process according to Claim 16 wherein the skirt portion extends at least about 3 mm from the withdrawal end.
